Bigbee BA 1887

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BIGBEE

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

CHRIST'S VALLEY CHURCH, SUMTER CO., ALA.

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STANDING COMMITTEES TO REPORT NEXT YEAR.

State Missions—J D Cook, J K Ryan and J B Turner.
Home Missions—W P Brewer, R A Clay and T M Branson.
Foreign Missions—J R Larkin, C C Vaughan and F M Pond.
Ministerial Education—A D Fortner, B F Riley and O C Thomas.
Sabbath Schools—John W Jones, W S Culpepper and W L Pack.
General Education—E M Shaw, J P Coats and J W Cook.
Temperance—J E Herring, B F Brown and Lynn Shelton.
Bible and Colportage Work—W H Brown, A R Autrey and J Q Lipscomb.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading of Letters and Enrolling of Delegates.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Appointment of Committees on Preaching.
4. Admission of New Churches.
5. Correspondence from other Bodies.
6. Invitation of Ministers to Seats.
7. Report of Standing Committees.
8. Appointment of Standing Committees—to Report at next Session.
9. Report of Committees of Present Session.
10. Motions and Resolutions.
11. Miscellaneous Business.
12. Appointment of Time and Place for Next Session.

MINUTES.

The Thirty-Fifth Annual Session of the Bigbee Baptist Association, was held with Christian Valley Baptist church, near Coatopa, Sumter county, Ala., commencing on Thursday, the 8th day of September, 1887, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator called the body to order and read the 46th Psalm. Prayer by B. F. Riley.

Owing to the absence of W. S. Culpepper, the appointee, the Introductory Sermon was deferred until Friday, at 11 A. M., at which time it was stated that he would be present.

In response to the call for representation, the letters from the churches were presented and read by B. F. Riley and J. E. Herring.

Delegates from the churches were enrolled as follows:

Beaulah—F M Pond.
Christian Valley—B B Seale, Wm Larkin, Jas F Williamson, and J R Larkin.
Clinton—N M Carpenter and Sister Fannice Carpenter.
Concord—S J Phillips and H P Wilson.
Cuba—C C Vaughan, J D Cook, R A Clay, Wm Bell and L Poole.
Demopolis—G W Bolton.
Epes—H R Autrey and W G Lewis.
Eutaw—J E Herring and Sister Lizzie Coloin.
Fellowship—R L Simmons and B F Compton.
Friendship—Not represented.
Gainesville—O C Thomas.
Hickory Hill—T B Woodward.
Hopewell, Choctaw Co—Letter and funds.
Hopewell, Sumter Co—James Speed.
Livingston—B F Riley, H R Foss, A P Evans, G C Gowdey and A D Forturer.
Mt Hermon—Sister Bettie Farrar.
Mt Moriah—W U Shaw and W P Pearson.
Mt Pleasant—Joel Q Lipscomb, W F Westbrook, D S Compton and J P Coats.
Mt Sterling—J B Turner.
New Prospect—A R Scarborough, W P Brewer, M D Gould and L A McLane.
Rehobeth—L L Belsher, John W Cook and B M Culpepper.
Shorts—W C Seale and T F Seale.

Siloam--Jas Stalling, J H McDonald, H J Sims, W H Hill and Lynn Shelton.
Sumterville--R N McKinley, C H Bullock and Morgan Lynn.
York--W J Pack, C P Mills, B F Brown and W A Altenan.
Zion--J K Ryan, W S Culpepper, G W Greene, C F Rainer and T M Brunson.

An election of officers by ballot was then held, which resulted in the re-election of L. L. Belsher, Moderator; and J. D. Cook, Clerk. Brother I. C. Brown having moved out of the Association, Bro. G. C: Gowdey was elected Treasurer.

On motion of J. K. Ryan a vote of thanks was tendered I. C. Brown, the former Treasurer of this Association, for his faithfulness as Treasurer during a long series of years. Two stanzas of "Nearer my God to Thee," were sung, and special prayer offered by L. L. Belsher in behalf of Brother Brown, who was reported as being in a very low state of health.

Committee on programme was appointed as follows: J. R. Larkin, the pastor and deacons of Christian Valley church and S. J. Phillips.

Adjourned to 2, P. M.

Prayer by T. B. Woodward.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened by singing "Jesus Lover of my Soul."

Prayer by C. C. Vaughan.

Petitionary letters were called for, and two were presented, viz: Mt. Pleasant church, Jefferson, Marengo Co. Ala., and Epes, Epes Station, Sumter Co. Ala. They were received and enrolled as above, and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by the Moderator in behalf of the Association.

Received correspondents:

Alabama Baptist—C. W. Hare.

Carey Association, Miss.,—S. P. Benbrook.

The Moderator appointed the following Special Committees:—

On Finance—T. M. Brunson, Morgan Lynn and W. P. Pearson.

On Correspondence—A. D. Fortner, H. P. Wilson and R. A. Clay.

On Nominations—J. K. Ryan, L. Poole and N. M. Carpenter.

To Nominate Executive Committee—J. E. Herring, G. W. Greene and C. F. Rainer.

To Apportion the amounts to each church asked for by the State Mission Board—B. F. Riley, J. B. Turner and H. R. Foss.

Some brethren on the standing committees not being present, names were added:

Sabbath Schools: Names added—G. C Gowdey and B. M. Culpepper; present, L. Poole.

General Education—Names added:—J. P. Coats, B. T. Hart and T. B. Woodward.

Temperance—Present, J. R. Larkin: names added, L. A. McLane and J. W. Cook.

Foreign Missions—Present, J. K. Ryan: names added, R. N. McKinley and James Stalling.

An opportunity was given to present the claims of the Alabama Baptist, which C. W. Hare, the Junior Editor, did in a speech of a few minutes.

The Committee on Programme made a partial report, which was afterwards completed as follows:

THURSDAY.

3:15 P. M., Report on Bible and Colportage Work; 4:15 P; M., Report on Ministerial Education: 5 P. M., Adjournment 7:30 P. M., preaching by J. E. Herring.

FRIDAY.

9:45 A. M., Report of Missionary of Bigbee Association; 10:45 A. M., Report on Home Missions: 11 A. M., Introductory Sermon by W. S. Culpepper; 1:30 P. M. Report on Home Missions renewed; 2:15 P. M., Report on State Missions; 4:30 P. M., Adjournment; 7:30 P. M., Preaching by J. D. Cook.

SATURDAY.

9 A. M., Devotional exercises; 9:30 A. M., Miscellaneous

Business; 10 A. M., Report on Foreign Missions; 11:15 A. M., Report on General Education; 2 P. M., Report on Temperance; 3 P. M., Report of Executive Committee; 3:05 P. M. Report on Apportionment; 3:10 P. M., Report on Woman's Work; 3:45 P. M., Report on Sunday Schools; 4:30 Reports of Special Committees and Miscellaneous Business; 7:30 preaching by S. P. Benbrook.

SUNDAY MORNING.

10 A. M.—Devotional Exercises.

10:30 A. M.—By request of church, ordination of Wm. Larkin to the deaconship.

11 A. M.—Preaching at Baptist Church by B. F. Riley; at Methodist Church by J. E. Herring.

The Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum were read by direction of the Moderator.

The report on Bible and Colportage Work was submitted and discussed by C. C. Vaughan, B. F. Riley, C. W. Hare, and H. R. Autrey, and then adopted.

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

Your Committee on Bible and Colportage Work beg leave to submit the following:

Life is far too short to read every attractive book. If we could present a list of books which would benefit every person, our advice would be, first of all, the Bible. Read the Bible for its moral tone, for its influence on the mind. The influence of this literature is always ennobling. How it strengthens our love for our fellow man, to know that in every land and in every clime minds and hearts are so much alike that they respond in unison to the great lessons taught by the Master! How we learn to love the author through this book, to feel an interest in all that concerns our every-day life! The Bible contains promises which are endearing to every heart, without which all would be dark and dreary as to a better land. Therefore your committee would have the Bible in every house and in the hand of every man.

There is no system so potent as the competent and faithful labors of a Colporter. Your committee recommend that so soon as practicable you associate in connection with your missionary, this work. By this means in active employment, destitute places will have the gospel, good literature, and the Bible, as well, will be carried to every house within our bounds.

C. C. VAUGHAN, Ch'man.

The report on Ministerial Education was read and discussion ensued by J. D. Cook, A. D. Fortner, J. E. Herring and B. F. Riley. The report was adopted.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

It has only been within late years, comparatively, as a denomination

that we have realized the importance of Ministerial Education. We say comparatively; for there have been some all along the great and extended Baptist line who have urged the necessity for high culture in the ministry, and did all they could to this end. Few now are the advocates for an illiterate ministry. The rapid progress being made in every department of science, literature and art; and, in fact, the onward and upward march of everything, demands that the attainments of the preacher of the glorious gospel of the blessed God shall not be one whit behind in any particular or department. We believe in a divine call to the ministry, and that the Lord has a work for every one whom He calls; yet observation teaches us that the churches want the most thoroughly qualified preachers that they can command. This is no mere whim on the part of the churches. The scriptures teach this important lesson :—"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—II Tim. 2;15. "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them that thy profiting may appear to all."—I Tim. 4:15. All of our wide awake preachers, whether educated or not, admit that the demands are very great for an educated ministry, and are growing greater every year.

We firmly believe that when we shall have discharged our duty to the best of our ability in giving an adequate education to our poor young men whom the Lord has put into the ministry, we will see a prosperity in our Baptist Zion that will be a marvel to our most credulous. Brethren of the Bigbee Association, there is no greater work than this claiming our attention, and none which will bring greater returns in proportion to the amount of money expended

Our Board of Ministerial Education, located at Montgomery, Ala., M. B. Wharton, D. D., President, assisted twenty-four young men during the past conventional year as follows. Fifteen at Howard College, six in high schools, and two at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This Board will continue to help young men who come properly recommended by their churches. Basil Manly, D. D., of Louisville, Ky., will gladly confer with any who may need help to take the course at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. Brethren, let us do all in our power for the thorough equipment of our rising ministry.

We recommend that hereafter whatever assistance shall be rendered to brethren seeking aid for preparation for the gospel ministry, shall be in the form of a loan. And any brother to whom the Association may grant such a loan, shall be required to give to the Treasurer of the Association his note for any sum or sums of money which he may receive. The loan shall be made without interest, and its payment shall be contingent upon the future ability of the recipient, The money thus returned to the treasury shall be for ministerial education.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. Cook, Ch'man.

Adjourned to 9 a. m. Friday. Prayer by J. E. Herring.

THURSDAY NIGHT—7:30.

Preaching by J. E. Herring. Subject—"The seven sayings of Christ while on the cross.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION—9 o'clock.

Devotional exercises conducted by J. E. Herring. Min-

utes of Thursday read and approved.

Received correspondents:

Corresponding Secretary of State Mission Board—W. B. Crumpton.

President of Judson Institute—Prof. S. W. Averett, L. L. D.

On motion, brethren Patton and Gayle, Methodist Ministers, were invited to seats with us.

The Missionary of the Bigbee Association submitted his report, and after discussion by C. C. Vaughan, W. B. Crumpton and J. E. Herring, the report was adopted.

REPORT OF MISSIONARY OF BIGBEE ASSOCIATION.

As missionary of this Association, I began this year's work the 1st of November, 1886. I have been preaching regularly once a month to three churches, viz; Epes, Mt. Hebron, and Hickory Hill. The Epes Baptist Church was constituted the fourth Sunday in Oct., 1886, and has continued to grow in strength and efficiency until we believe that it is now self-sustaining. The congregations at Mt. Hebron have grown quite large. The church at Hickory Hill is laboring under many disadvantages. One Sabbath in each month has been reserved to visit the different churches.

The following is a summary of work to the 1st of September: Days of service, 158; sermons preached, 101; miles travelled, 1455; visits to families, 142; special visits to families, 8; visits to churches, 20; Sunday-schools organized, 2; Sunday-school addresses made, 29; other addresses made, 26; prayer meetings held, 40; churches constituted, 1; received by letter, 40; restored, 2; baptized, 21; batized in connection with other's labors, 8; subscribers to Foreign Mission Journal, 4; subscribers to Alabama Baptist, 1; New Testaments distributed, 24; pages of tracts, 1500; funerals attended, 2; collected for State Missions, $58.40; collected for Ministerial Education, $1.69; collected for Indigent Ministers, $1.60.

Considering the destitution that still exist within our bounds, we think it proper for the Association to continue to do all the work possible within its territory.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. VAUGHAN,
Missionary.

The Report on Home Missions was read, and deferred until the afternoon session.

On motion, has a short recess, and then the Introductory sermon, by W. S. Culpepper. Text, Acts 3:32. "We are his witnesses of these things.

Adjourned to 1-30 P. M.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—1-30. P. M.

Opened with prayer by J. P. Coats.

The pending Report, Home Missions, was discussed by B. F. Riley and L. Poole, then adopted.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board is the great agency of the Baptist churches of the South, for evangelization of the multitudes of the Southern States, the Indians of the West, and inhabitants of the Island of Cuba. The rapid growth of population in the South, as our boundless resources come to be recognized and appreciated, the rapid formation of towns and cities, where Baptist views should be promulgated by a Baptist ministry. The abounding need of the African race increasing in numbers in our midst, the thousands of Indians who are yet sitting in darkness in the shadow of death, and the mighty spiritual upheaval upon Cuba, that populous isle of the sea. These are the varied fields which Providence has opened to the Baptists of the South. The agency adopted for the occupation and cultivation of these inviting fields is the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

For the success of its work it is entirely dependent upon the contributions of the Baptists of the South. It is gratifying to report that in recognition of its necessities by reason of the growth of our population, the contributions to the Board are annually increasing, and correspondingly with the growth of its resources is the increase of its work. The aggregate work of the Board is thus stated by the Secretary for the year closing with the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention :

Missionaries, 251 ; churches and stations, 822 ; weeks of labor, 8935 ; sermons and addresses, 24,490 ; prayer meetings, 3110 ; baptisms, 3923 ; received by letter, 2319 ; total additions, 6,242 ; Sunday Schools reported, 318 ; teachers and pupils, 13,031 ; religious visits, 25,663 , houses of worship built, 119 ; church lots obtained, 62 ; cost of houses and lots, $60,000. These embrace missionaries and other workers laboring under the auspices of the Board in Alabama, Arkansas, Cuba, District of Columbia, Florida, Indian Territory, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, Western North Carolina, West Virginia. The total amount of money raised and expended in the field during the past year, was, 122,097.20. During the ensuing year the Baptists of Alabama are asked to contribute $5,000 to the work of this Board. Last year the contributions of the State amounted to $3,618.38.

It is proper to state that the increase in the work of the Board has become so great as to necessitate the employment of an assistant Corresponding Secretary. To this position Dr. J. Wm. Jones, of Virginia, has been elected. The aim sought by the Board, the interest involved, the extent of its work and the gravity of its responsibility should evoke the most liberal responses from the Baptists of Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. Riley, Ch'n.

On motion, C. S. Ray, an independent Baptist misister, was invited to a seat with us.

Adjourned to 9 A. M. Saturday.

FRIDAY NIGHT—7-30.

Preaching by J. D. Cook. Text, Heb. 11:24-26. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures

of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect to the recompense of the reward."

SATURDAY MORNING—9 O'clock.

Devotional exercises conducted by W. S. Culpepper.

Minutes of Friday read and approved.

A motion was made to strike from the roll the names of all delegates who had left without permission. A substitute was offered as follows: That hereafter the names of all members who shall leave without permission, shall be stricken from the roll of delegates. The substitute was adopted.

The report on Foreign Missions was read and speeches were made on the subject by J. K. Ryan, and B. F. Riley then adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

As Baptist we claim that the underlying principle of our faith, is obedience to Christ. From this scriptural stand point, what are our professions worth if we ignore the last and yet the most important command of our Savior. We fondly treasure up the dying words of our best friends, and make it a point to carry out their last behests. Shall we be more ungrateful to the blessed Lord than to our earthly friends. Shall we turn indifferently from Him who gave Himself for us, and who loved us so as to shed His blood for our redemption. We believe His promises, and cherish His commands, and would fain obey the marching order of Heaven, in sending the gospel to the heathen.

We recognize with devout thankfulness that God's blessings have attended our work in the Foreign fields through the past Conventional year. New laborers have been added to the work, souls have been given to Christ, houses of worship have been built and all along the line we hear the cry, "Come over and help us." When we reflect upon the millions of souls in heathen lands, hear their appeals to us for help; when we consider the magnitude of the work, and yet, how little we are doing for the Master, we feel constrained to ask the question, "Do we love the Lord Jesus Christ as we should?" Is the command "go ye into all the world" heard and obeyed by us, holding the Word of God in one hand, and the ability to send it in the other. Is christian responsibility to God felt by us as it should be? Are we not sleeping away our privileges, and turning indifferently from the cries of suffering humanity? Believing and realizing as we do the command of our Savior, coming down to us through the past ages retains its primative force and efficacy; that it has lost none of its effectiveness, but rather gathering force and beauty as darkness flees and light springs up as the ages come and go, and as knowledge increases, so will we "lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes."

As we look over the fields our hearts are made to rejoice at the indications of joyful progress. Perhaps, never before in the history of modern

Missions have the steps of advance been more rapid, or more successful. Surely, we as Southern Baptists to have never had such cause for rejoicing as at the present day, for surely our work as Baptists has been blessed during the past year as never before, and more especially in Foreign lands. Reports from this field of labor show, "Fifty American organizations for Mission work, which in the aggregate show a constituency of 11,842,462 members, with an increase of missionary funds of $3,896,911.

There are in the field 1,119 ordained, 141 lay, and 1,266 female Foreign missionaries, with 1,272 ordained and 9,105 unordained native workers. They report 297,675 native communicants, a gain of 22,069 over the year 1885."—Foreign Mission Journal.

During the Conventional year 1886, the sum of $87,830.53 was paid over into the Foreign Mission Board, the largest amount by far that has ever been received by the Board during any previous year. Of this amount Alabama is credited with $1,692.26 and, although, in advance of what she gave last year, it is far less than it should have been, considering the vast amount of wealth she cradles upon her bosom, yet it proves an advance movement in her mission spirit. The membership in Foreign lands gave last year, an average of nearly $2 per member. This fact itself, is enough to put to shame the Baptist composing this Convention when comparing our advantages with those of the heathen, and to realize how far in advance they are of us in benevolence. It is but right that we should strive to work up a deeper interest among our churches, to infuse if possible, a deeper mission spirit in the membership and inspire the hearts of our brethren all over the land, to look out upon the fields that are inviting more laborers, and a greater consecration to the work of sending the gospel to heathen lands.

We frankly admit that christianity is advancing, and it is simply a matter of time as to when it shall cover the whole earth. "Thy kingdom come," should be the fervent prayer of every child of God, with a contribution sufficient to meet the emergency laid upon God's alter. As it has been predicted that within the next fifty years the world will be swayed by christianity as taught in the Bible, Baptists must do their part of this work. David and Prewett must be reinforced in Africa, Crawford, Holmes, Graves, and others of their coadjators must have a well trained band to assist them in China, and in all Asia. Taylor, Eager and all their co-laborers must have tried soldiers to come to their assistance, competent to meet the work in Europe; Powell and Flourney in Mexico, and a Bagby and Taylor in Brazil, must have true-yoked fellows to enable them to meet Catholicism, in its darkest form, and spread christianity, and the Bible in every nook and corner of those dark places of earth.

O! that there was one long and earnest prayer from all hearts all over the land for greater consecration to the work. O! that we all could realize the prophetic vision of the immortal Isaiah when he told us in the language of Heaven that the church would arise and shine, and her light and glory would be dispensed throughout the whole earth; that day has come. The demand is upon us, the calls of Heaven are to us, as His church, the responsibility is on our own shoulders; we are to meet Romanism in its darkest form, and with its most powerful force. Judaism is a thing of the past, but Infidelity, Skepticism, Liberalism and other false doctrines have taken up the refrain and under their influence grand efforts are being made. But the church of Jesus Christ united, with the Bible in hand, is pushing forward the grand and glorious work of the worlds redemption.

Respectfully submitted,

J. K. Ryan, Ch'n.

The Report on general education was submitted by the

Chairman, and discussion ensued by B. F. Riley.

On motion, the regular order was suspended, and the subject of Ministerial Education was resumed. An address was made by B. F. Riley, and the following pledges were made to Ministerial Education, half to be paid the 1st of October, 1887, and the balance the 1st of February, 1888. Funds to be sent to G. C. Gowdey, Treasurer, Livingston, Ala.

PLEDGES TO MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Livingston	$ 10 00
Livingston Sunday School	10 00
Sumterville	10 00
Sumterville Sunday School (paid $2.50	5 00
Cuba	10 00
Concord	10 00
Rehoboth	5 00
Zion	10 00
Zion Sunday School	5 00
York	10 00
New Prospect	5 00
J. R. Larkin	25 00
Christain Valley	5 00
Ladies Aid Society of York church	5 00
Hopewell, Sumter county	5 00
Clinton Sunday School	5 00
Eutaw	5 00
Demopolis	10 00
J. D. Cook	5 00
Gainesville	5 00
Shorts	5 00
Mt. Pleasant	10 00
J. P. Coats	5 00
W. U. Shaw, Paid ($1.00)	2 00
Epes	5 90
Siloam	5 00
Miss Annie McCall	2 00
Miss Carrie Henson	1 00
Miss Givins	50
Miss Armstrong	05
Miss S. Armstrong	25
Miss T M Hurds	50
Mrs. J F Williamson	1 00
Total	$197.30

The regular order was then resumed, and the report on General Education was then adopted.

GENERAL EDUCATION.

Brother Moderator, We, your Committee, would not think it necessary to offer any elaborate argument to the intelligence here assembled in the Bigbee Baptist Association to prove the great and important fact of the ne

cessity of the education of the masses. This indeed would be almost an insult to the cultivated minds of this body. But brethren, there are some features in connection with this grand and most important work, to which we, as your committee, deem our duty to call the attention of our people. That we who would have our offspring to keep pace with the rapid strides of the age, in the inventions of modern times, and fit them for any station in life to which they may be called, should see to it, that we engage all our powers in the establishment of institutions of learning, that will be best calculated to impart to their minds the best training that American cultivation can afford. Another feature in the education of the young, and too, one of greatest importance to the people of our country, which should never be overlooked in the education of our children, is that of exerting ourselves to secure a faculty that will cultivate especially the morals of the young, and imbue their minds with sound religious principles. This, brethren, your committee consider to be the most important factor in preparing the minds of the young for the most exalted and important stations in life.

It was early religious training that laid the foundation upon which the greatest men of our nation reached the exalted places to which they attained. It is this principle to-day, in connection with the cultivation of the minds of the young, will furnish the ground-work upon which, characters may be built which we would be proud to call our leaders in all future political and religious conquests.

Brethren we are proud to report the fact, from all information which we have been able to gather, that our people are alive to the great and important interest of general education. But while this is the fact, dear brethren, we, as a denomination, have some cause for lamentation, on the ground that there seems to have been some difference of opinion with the leading minds of our denomination on the question of the removal of the most important denominational institution of learning within the borders of our State. (We allude to the removal of Howard College.) Yet while this is to be lamented, we should not lose sight of the teaching of Holy Writ, that God in his own mysterious way guides and rules over the affairs of his people with divine wisdom and love, and brethren now that Howard has been removed to another station in our state by the greater voice of our denomination, and we trust under the direction of the Holy Spirit, we as a denomination, considering our responsibility to our master for the adjustment of the means which he has placed in our hands for the advancement of his cause, should bow in humble submission to his will, and strive to forget all differences that heretofore existed, and lend our support to the Howard in its new home.

Another feature in the education of the masses, and one which we think presents a formable aspect before the people of the United States, is the education of the colored race. While we feel the importance of the cultivation of the mind, yet we consider that above all, every means that can possibly be secured to advance their moral culture, should be used in the most forcible and available manner.

We, your committee, find ourselves at a loss to suggest the means which would be likely to be conducive of most good relative to this perplexing question, unless the race can be reached through the agency of their ministry, which we conceive to be almost an absolute power with them.

Respectfully submitted,

J P Coats.

On motion the Association instructed the Treasurer to lend $150 to W. S. Culpepper, and $25 to S. J. Williams from the fund for Ministerial Education.

Adjourned to 2 P. M. Prayer by J. P. Coats.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 2 P. M.

Opened by singing, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

The Finance committee submitted their report and it was adopted.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to make the following report:

Received for State Missions		$ 318 15
" " Home "		93 60
" " Foreign "		83 00
" " Ministerial Education		141 80
" " Infirm Ministers		17 00
" " Colportage		5 50
" " Evangelizing colored race		3 00
" " American Baptist P S		8 00
" " Minutes		48 60
Total		$ 718 95
Received cash	$ 325 25	
" vouchers	393 70	
Total		$ 718 95

Committee,
THOS M BRUNSON,
W P PEARSON,
MORGAN LYNN.

On motion, the funds for printing the minutes were paid to the Clerk, and he was allowed $15.00 for his services; the fund for Indigent Ministers to be paid to W. F. Pond; the balance of the monies to be held by the Treasurer, subject to the order of the Cor. Secretary of the State Mission Board.

The report on Temperance was submitted and discussion ensued by H. R. Autrey, B. F. Riley and C. W. Hare. The report was then adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Brother Moderator: It is with pleasure your committee say to you that the cause of prohibition is on the decided advance. Not only in our own loved state, has it prospered, but throughout our general government. Indeed the spirit and good effect of prohibition is extending among other nations. Our state is to-day largely prohibition, and should the cause meet no unwise management, we believe the next session of the Legislature will pass what will be in effect, a prohibition bill.

We should remember that anything so wide reaching as this, should be managed with care, and not haste.

One of the strongest assurances of the final success of prohibition, is the fact that christians, (irrespective of denominations) are awakening to their duty on this important subject and resolving that as "for them and their households" they will observe its requirements.

One other cause of encouragement is that prohibition pays financially, as is evidenced by the prosperity following its introduction into any city, town, country or state.

Respectfully submitted,
J R LARKIN.

The chairman of the Executive Committee read the report of the committee, which was adopted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee during the year held but one formal meeting though some business was transacted through the medium of correspondence. Through the agency of the committee Brother G C Gowdey was elected temporary treasurer of the Bigbee Association, in lieu of Bro I C Brown, who had removed from the Association and one district meeting was appointed at Epes.

During the year, through the diligence of the Executive Committee, $150 have been raised for ministerial education and was duly transmitted to Rev W S Culpepper attending upon Howard College.

Since the beginning of his vacation Rev B F Brown has been laboring as a colporteur in the Association, under the sanction of the Committee, upon the condition that he should receive $10 per month, provided that expenditure is warranted by the contributions from the churches for State Missions.

Respectfully submitted,
B F RILEY, Chairman.

The Committee on Apportionment made their report and it was adopted.

The report on Woman's Work was read and discussed by J. E. Herring and A. D. Fortuer, then adopted.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

The central committee appointed at the last session of this body to supervise Woman's Work in this Association, beg leave to report as follows:

Owing to the absence of the chairman of this committee, no communications have been sent to, nor received from any churches, but your committee has learned from some of our pastors that all of the Missionary Societies reported in good standing one year ago are still in good working order, and one other has been organized since that time. Your committee would impress upon all of our sisters, the vital importance of thorough and immediate organization in order that we may more effectually perform the highest mission entrusted to mortals. There are ten or twelve societies within the bounds of our Association.

MRS. I. C. BROWN,
" T. A. MOORING,
MISS BETTIE BROWN.

The committee on Sunday Schools read their report and speeches were made by B. F. Riley, J. Q. Lipscomb and A. D. Fortuer, then the report was adopted.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to offer the following report:

We believe, after looking over the field, that this great church work is encouraging in every respect. Seventeen schools, with an aggregate of ninety-two teachers and five hundred and seventy-four pupils, are reported in the letters.

We beg leave to report the following churches without Sabbath-schools, viz: Concord, Mt. Sterling, and Rehobeth. There is a union school at Epes. We recommend Kind Words as the best Sunday-school paper.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. Gowdey,
B. M. Culpepper,
L. Poole.

The committee to nominate the Executive Committee reported the following names, which was adopted: B. F. Riley, A. D. Fortuer, W. H. Brown, W. L. Pack, G. C. Gowdey.

The report on Nominations was submitted and after amendment adopted.

NOMINATIONS.

Your committee on Nominations ask permission to report:

That the next session of this body be held with Clinton Church, Greene County, Ala; and to convene at 11 o'clock a. m. on Thursday preceding the second Sabbath in September, 1888. That Elder B. F. Riley preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder J. R. Larkin, alternate. Elder J. E. Herring to preach the annual Missionary Sermon on Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m; Eld. J. D. Cook, alternate. We also recommend that the vacancy in Woman's Work, caused by the removal of Mrs. I. C. Brown, be supplied by Miss Charlie Stewart of Sumterville, Sumter County, Ala.

Woman's Central Committee—Miss Charlie Stewart, Mrs. T. A. Mooring and Miss Bettie Brown.

J. K. Ryan, Ch'man.

The Committee on Correspondence submitted this Report, which was adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Your Committee on Correspondence beg leave to report the following corresponding messages at this session: Carey Association, Miss., Rev. S P Benbrook; Corresponding Secretary State Mission Board of Ala, Rev. W. B. Crumpton; Judson Female Institute—Pres. S. W. Averett, LL. D.; Alabama Baptist—Rev. C. W. Hare, Jr. Ed.

Respectfully submitted,

A. D. Fortuer, Ch'n.

The Moderator appointed Standing Committees to report next year as follows:

State Missions—J. D. Cook, J. K. Ryan and J. B. Turner.

Home Missions—W. P. Brewer, R. A. Clay and T. M. Branson.

Foreign Missions—J. R. Larkin, C. C. Vaughan and F. M. Pond.

Ministerial Education—A. D. Fortner, B. F. Riley and O. C. Thomas.

Sabbath Schools—John W. Jones, W. S. Culpepper and W. L. Pack.

General Education—E. M. Shaw, J. P. Coats and J. W. Cook.

Temperance—J. E. Herring, B. F. Brown and Lynn Shelton.

Bible and Colportage Work—W. H. Brown, H. R. Autrey and J. Q. Lipscomb.

On motion, the name of Stonewall was stricken from the roll of churches.

The following resolution was offered and adpoted:

Resolved, That we tender to this church and community our heart-felt thanks for their kind hospitality in entertaining the Association; also to our Methodist Brethren for extending to us the use of their house of worship.

On motion, W. S. Culpepper was given an opportunity to present the claims of the Bessemer Baptist church, of Jefferson County, Ala. Pledges were made to build a Baptist church in Bessemer, to the amount of $3700, and cash $15.-75; total $52.75.

On motion, adjourned; Song, "There's a land that is fairer than day." Prayer by B. F. Riley.

The next session of this Association will be held with Clinton church, Clinton, Greene County, Ala, commencing at 11 A. M. on Thursday, before second Sunday in September, 1888.

J. D. Cook, Clerk.

L. L. Belsher, Moderator.

SUNDAY.

Preaching at the Baptist church by B. F. Riley, and at the Methodist church by J. E. Herring. Amount of collection $20.65.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. C. Brown, in account with Bigbee Association:

1886. Dr.

Sept. 11—To amt. received of Finance Com. (cash and vouch's . .$585 65

Sept. 12.	"	"	"	public collection on Sabbath.....		12 00

CR.

Sept. 11—By am't paid Rev. C. C. Vaughan in full to date, by order of Association.....$						54 30
Sept. 11	"	"	"	"	J. E. Herring.....	79 15
Sept. 11	"	"	"	"	J. D. Cook, Clerk.....	15 00
Sept. 11	"	"	"	"	" " for Minutes.....	29 75
Sept. 11	"	"	"	"	W. F. Pond, Indigent Min'r..	11 30
Sept. 21	"	"	"	"	W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec. cash and vouchers.....	408 15
Total						$597 65

Respectfully submitted,

I. C. BROWN, Treas.

Note: The Treasurer's Report was received after the adjournment of the Association. He stated that his serious illness occasioned its delay—Clerk.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee on State Missions beg leave to make the following report: We are very glad to be able to report a growing interest in this important work. During the past conventional year, under the direction of the State Board, we have had a goodly number of men in the field, from whose labor we gather the following:

Baptized, 509; baptized in connection with other's labors, 483; received by letter, 350; Sunday Schools organized, 93; Woman's Missionary Societies organized, 10.

In view of the fact that there is a great influx of population into our state and that there are a large number of the churches (718) that gave nothing last year, and that 400 gave less than ten dollars each, and that a large portion of the state has very little preaching that is of much advantage to the people, we hope that the churches will make a strenuous effort to raise the $15,000 asked for by the State Mission Board.

Respectfully submitted.

J E HERRING, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This body shall be known by the name of the "Bigbee Baptist Association.

2. The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual meeting, from its own body, and shall hold their office until their successors are elected.

3. The Moderator shall preside over the Association, and shall discharge the duties usually imposed upon officers presiding over deliberative bodies.

4. The Clerk shall keep a fair record of the proceedings of this Association, and shall attend to the printing and distributing of the minutes.

5. The Treasurer shall perform the duties usually assigned to such officer, and shall report annually to the Association.

6. The Association shall hold its meetings at such time and place as it shall from time to time appoint.

7. Every church shall be entitled to two delegates, and, also, one for every twenty-five members exceeding twenty-five.

8. This Association disclaims all right of exercising authority over the

internal regulations of churches, believing that within their own sphere they are accountable to God only.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended by the concurrence of three-fourths of the members comprising the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe in one living and true God: that in the Godhead are Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

II. We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the New Testament is the only rule of faith and practice.

III We believe that the Church of God is composed of such persons as believe in Jesus Christ and have been baptized; that baptism consists in the immersion of the whole body in water; and that the Lord's Supper should be administed to church members only.

IV. We believe in the Doctrines of Grace taught by the United Baptists, viz: In the depravity of man; in the converting grace of God; in the resurrection of the dead; in the general judgment; in the eternal life of the righteous—in the everlasting punishment of the wicked.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. At each meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall take the chair, shall call the members to order, shall decide questions of order subject to an appeal, shall open and close the Association with prayer, shall appoint committees when not otherwise ordered, and shall pronounce the decisions to the Association.

2nd. The names of members shall be called each day, and invitations to seats extended to ministering brethren

3rd. The members shall observe respect to officers and to each other, shall rise when addressing the Moderator, shall confine themselves to the questions, shall avoid personalities, shall not speak without leave more than once until every member shall have opportunity to speak, and shall sustain that bearing to each other which becomes gentlemen and christians.

4th. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Moderator, and then shall be in possession of the Association, but may be withdrawn by the mover before amendment or decision.

5th. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone; which motion shall have precedence in the order enumerated.

6th. All questions except those relating to the Constitution shall be decided by a majority. Any member voting with the majority, may move for a reconsideration on the day of decision. Members may not leave the Association without permission.

7th. When questions of order are not provided for in these rules, they shall be decided according to the rules and regulations governing legislative bodies generally.

8th. The Association shall have power to receive into its body and fellowship such churches as apply for admission; and shall also be empowered to withdraw its fellowship from any church or body of men walking disorderly; and supposed to be unworthy the fellowship of this Association.

Churches.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Mission.	Bible Work.	Indigent Ministers Fund.	Evangelization of Colored Race.	Total.
Beulah	$ 6 50	$ 5 00	$ 5 00	$ 50	$ 50	$ 50	$ 18 00
Christian Valley	15 50	6 00	6 00	1 00	1 00	50	30 00
Clinton	8 50	4 50	5 00	50	1 00	50	20 00
Concord	25 00	6 00	7 00	50	1 00	50	40 00
Cuba	25 00	6 00	7 00	50	1 00	50	40 00
Demopolis	10 00	5 00	5 00	50	2 50	2 50	25 50
Eutaw	10 00	5 50	5 00	50	1 00	50	22 50
Epes	5 00	2 00	2 00	50	50	50	10 50
Fellowship	8 00	6 00	5 00	50	1 00	50	21 00
Friendship	8 00	5 00	5 00	50	50	50	19 50
Gainesville	15 00	4 50	4 50	50	50	50	25 50
Hickory Hill	15 00	2 50	2 50	50	50	50	21 50
Hopewell, Choctaw County	10 00	2 50	2 50	50	50	50	16 50
Hopewell, Sumter County	12 00	3 00	3 00	50	1 00	50	20 00
Livingston	35 00	15 00	15 00	50	1 00	50	67 00
Mt Hermon	5 00	3 00	2 00	50	50	50	11 50
Mt Moriah	5 00	3 00	2 00	50	50	50	11 50
Mt Pleasant	20 00	7 00	7 00	50	1 00	1 00	36 50
Mt Sterling	14 00	5 00	4 00	50	1 00	50	25 00
New Prospect	11 50	3 50	3 00	50	1 00	50	20 00
Rehoboth	17 50	5 50	5 00	50	1 00	50	30 00
Shorts	5 00	3 00	2 00	50	1 00	50	12 00
Siloam	15 00	5 00	5 00	50	1 00	50	27 00
Sumterville	19 50	4 50	4 00	50	1 00	50	30 00
York	14 50	5 00	5 00	50	1 00	50	26 50
Zion	15 00	5 00	5 00	50	1 00	50	27 00
Total	$ 350 50	$ 128 00	$ 123 50	$13 50	$23 50	$ 15 50	$ 654 50

B. F. Riley, Ch'n.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1887.

Churches.	Home Missions.	Church Building (not at home)	...	...	Indigent Ministers.	Bible and Colportage Work.	Colored Students.	Howard College.	Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.	Minute Fund.	School Expenses.	American Baptist Publication Society.	Total	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, The Poor, etc.	Value of Building and Furniture.
Beulah	$	$	$	25	$ 1 00	$	$	$	$	$ 1 50	$	$	$ 6 75	$	$	$
Christian Valley	6 00			50	1 00	1 00	50			2 50			32 00			
Clinton	7 25			00	1 00	50				1 75			23 50			
Concord				50				3 50		3 00			38 00	150	50 00	850 00
Cuba	6 00			00	1 00	50	50	20 35		2 15	10 00	8 00	80 80	158	1 15	1 000 00
Demopolis	4 00			00	1 00	50	50	19 00		1 25			26 25			
Epes										2 00			2 00			
Eutaw	5 35			70	1 00	50				35	5 00		23 90	80	30 90	500 00
Fellowship	2 00							2 00		1 50			7 50			
Friendship																
Gainesville																
Hickory Hill				1 05				5 00		1 00	3 00		13 05	35	5 00	200 00
Hopewell, Choctaw, Co.								5 00		2 70			7 70	80		250 00
Hopewell, Sumter Co.		2 00		2 25				2 35		2 00			8 60			
Livingston	32 00			5 00	1 00	50	50	15 00	5 00	5 00	16 00		191 00	80	75	2 500 00
Mt. Hermon				1 80						70	6 00		8 50		17 0	500 00
Mt Moriah													13 50			100 00
Mt. Pleasant	1 50			3 00						3 00			9 00			
Mt. Sterling										2 00			9 75			
New Prospect	3 50		5 00	11 50	1 00	50	50			2 00			22 00			
Rehobath	5 50		5 00	17 50	5 00	50	50	10 00		2 50			46 50	100		0 00
Shorts	3 00			3 65						1 50	8 00		16 15	100	5 8	0
Siloam	5 50			1 25	1 00					2 00			12 75			
Sumterville	4 50	15 00	1 00	19 50	1 00	50	50	15 00		2 00			62 00			
York	7 50		4 00	11 80	1 00	50		19 50		2 50	18 00		67 80			
Zion	2 00		2 00	10 00	65			15 00		2 00	5 00		36 65		5 00	
Collections at Asso													20 65			
Total	$95 60	$17 00	$79 50	279 25	$16 65	$ 5 50	3 50	122 70	$ 5 00	$17 0	$71 00	$ 8 00	$ 797 30	1 50	1 90	$83.

THE BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S STATISTICS FOR 1887

Churches.	County.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Post Office of Church Clerks	Membership last Reported.	Increase by Baptism.	Increase by Letter.	Increase by Experience.	Increase by Restoration.	Decrease by Letter.	Decrease by Exclusion.	Decrease by Death.	Present Membership.	Sunday School Officers and Teachers.	Sunday School Pupils.	Sunday School Volumes in Library.	Preaching Sabbaths.	
Beulah	Sumter	W. F. Pond.	J. F. Dill	Kinterbish	53	6	1			6			52	4	25		4th	Names of Ch'rches organized during year:
Christian Valley	"	A. R. Scarborough	J. F. Williamson	Coatopa	48								40	4	40		1st	
Clinton	Greene.	J. E. Herring	J. S. Boyce.	Clinton	25	4	1						26	1	23		3rd	
Concord	Choctaw	J. D Cook	J. R. Phillips.	Yantley Creek	1 10		1			9			1 01				1st	
Cuba	Sumter.	J. D. Cook.	R. W. Shaw	Cuba Station.	1 16	6	6	3		4	32		94	8	63		3rd	Epes Ch.
Demopolis	Marengo.	B. F. Riley.	H. McKinley.	Demopolis	23	1	1						25				2nd&4th	
Epes	Sumter.	C. C. Vaughan	R. M. Goodgan	Epes.		13	3		2	2			25				4th	
Eutaw	Greene	J. E. Herring.	John Sears	Eutaw	11					2			9	3	16		1st&2nd	
Fellowship	Marengo	A. B. Spidel.	W. M. Simmons.	Demopolis	30					5		3	22				1st	
Friendship	Greene	G. S. Anderson			11								*11					
Gainesville	Sumter	J. E. Herring			33								*33					
Hickory Hill	"	C. C. Vaughan.	W. N. Woodward.	Bevill's Store.	59	2				5	4		42	4	35		1st	
Hopewell.	Choctaw	J. L. Tucker.	L. A. Vaughan	Mt. Sterling	51		1		1	3			67	7	25		3rd	
Hopewell	Sumter	A. R. Scarborough	J. V. Tutt.	Belmont	44					2			11				3rd	
Livingston	"	B. F. Riley.	G. C. Gowdey.	Livingston	53	17	9			1			74	11	65		1st&3rd	
Mt. Hermon	"	C. C. Vaughan	W. T. Gambrell	York Station.	19		1						18	6	20		3rd	
Mt. Moriah	"	W. F. Pond.	N. J. McElroy.	Cuba Station.	44	1	1			1	1		46	3	19		1st	Names of Ch'rches received from Associations.
Mt. Pleasant	Marengo	A. R. Scarborough.	L. L. Simmons.	Jefferson		12	2		1	2			57	1	45		2nd	
Mt. Sterling	Choctaw.		E. B. Turner	Mt. Sterling.	17	6	5						26				4th	
New Prospect	Sumter	A. B. Spidel	W. P. Brewer	Livingston	21	6							30	3	27		2nd	Mt Pleasant Ch.
Rehobeth	Choctaw	L. L. Simmer.	J. W. Cook.	Tushmataba.	35		4	1		2		1	37				4th	from Bethel.
Shorts.	Sumter	A. R. Scarborough	E. B. Hearne.	Gaston.	22	5	2						27	8	44		2nd	Association.
Siloam.	"	W. Ingrid	R. J. Shelton.	York Station.	1 23	7				13	7	2	1 08					
Sumterville.	"	J. Ming	Morgan Lynn	Livingston	32	16	5			4			51	1	25		1th	
York	"	J. L. [illegible]	W. L. Pack	York Station	51	1	5			2			58	5	20		1th	
Zion	"	J. [illegible]	T. M. Brunson	Roser.	81		5			2			85	4	50		2nd	
Total					11 18	106	53	4	4	68	41	9	12 05	82	5 38			

*Taken from last year's report.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS, THE POST-OFFICES OF THE BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

H R Autrey ..... Epes, Sumter County, Ala.
L L Belsher. ..... Pushmataha, Ala.
J D Cook. ..... Cuba Station, Sumter County, Ala.
W S Culpepper ..... Rosser, Sumter County, Ala.
F A Freeman ..... Butler, Choctaw County, Ala.
J E Herring ..... Eutaw, Greene County, Ala.
J R Larkin ..... Coatopa, Sumter County, Ala.
W F Pond ..... Kinterbish, Sumter County, Ala.
B F Riley, D D. ..... Livingston, Sumter County, Ala.
J K Ryan ..... Yantley Creek, Choctaw County, Ala.
A R Scarborough ..... Livingston, Sumter County, Ala.
C C Vaughan. ..... Cuba Station, Sumter County, Ala.
T B Woodward. ..... Bevill's Store, Sumter County, Ala.

LICENSED MINISTERS, THEIR NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF THE BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

J P Coats. ..... Demopolis, Marengo County, Ala.
B F Brown ..... York Station, Sumter County, Ala.
I B Bunyard ..... Cuba Station, Sumter County, Ala.
A P Evans ..... Kinterbish, Sumter County, Ala.
John W Smith, Sr ..... Jefferson, Marengo County, Ala.
A R Spidel. ..... Belmont, Sumter County, Ala.

ALABAMA BAPTIST

IS THE ORGAN OF THE

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It ought to be read in every Baptist family in Alabama.

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